AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sealed condition inspection device for inspecting a sealed condition of a sealed portion of a contents containing element, wherein the sealed portion is formed by portions of the element being sealed together comprising

a support unit for supporting the element to be inspected for the sealed condition,

a pair of electrodes positioned in opposing relation to one another and adapted to be positioned in contact with the sealed portion to be inspected ~~at positions across from one another~~ so that the sealed portion devoid of the contents is positioned between the pair of electrodes,

a power supply unit connected to the opposed electrodes for supplying current to the pair of electrodes so that the opposed electrodes are oppositely charged,

an electrical variable detecting unit for detecting an electrical variable in the sealed portion to be inspected, and

a sealed condition device for judging the sealed condition of the sealed portion of the element based on the electrical variable.

2. (Previously Presented) The sealed condition inspection device according to Claim 1, wherein said support unit of the element to be inspected is established in a conveyor for conveying the element to be inspected.

3. (Previously Presented) The sealed condition inspection device according to Claim 1, wherein said support unit is a receiving board for receiving the element to be inspected to mount the element.

4. (Previously Presented) The sealed condition inspection device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the pair of the said electrodes is movably disposed and can be located at an inspection position and a retreat position.

5 . (Currently Amended) The sealed condition inspection device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the pair of the said electrodes comprises a plurality of electrode elements.

6. (Previously Presented) The sealed condition inspection device according to Claim 1, wherein the sealed portion is folded down over a surface of the element, and one of said electrodes comprises a wedge shaped portion positionable under the folded down sealed portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of inspecting a sealed condition of an element comprising:

positioning an element adjacent a pair of opposing electrodes, the element being fabricated of a material and comprising a sealed portion at which portions of the material forming the element are sealed together;

contacting the opposing electrodes to the sealed portion of the element at opposite sides of the sealed portion;

supplying electric current to the electrodes in contact with the sealed portion so that the opposing electrodes are oppositely charged;

detecting an electrical variable in the sealed portion; and

judging a sealed condition of the sealed portion based on the detected electrical variable.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the sealed portion is folded down over a surface of the element, the method further comprising positioning one of the electrodes under the folded down sealed portion so that the one electrode is positioned between the surface of the element and a facing surface of the folded down sealed portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the element is a packaging container containing contents, and the sealed portion contacted by the electrodes is devoid of the contents.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the sealed portion of the element comprise dielectric material so that the sealed portion

functions as a condenser when the electric current is supplied to the sealed portion by way of the electrodes.

11. (New) A sealed condition inspection device for inspecting a sealed condition of a sealed portion of a contents containing element, wherein the sealed portion is formed by portions of the element being sealed together comprising

a support unit for supporting the element to be inspected for the sealed condition,

a pair of electrodes adapted to be positioned in contact with the sealed portion to be inspected at positions across from one another so that the sealed portion devoid of the contents is positioned between the pair of electrodes,

an electrical variable detecting unit for detecting an electrical variable in the sealed portion to be inspected,

a sealed condition device for judging the sealed condition of the sealed portion of the element based on the electrical variable, and

wherein the sealed portion is folded down over a surface of the element, and one of said electrodes comprises a wedge shaped portion positionable under the folded down sealed portion.

12. (New) A method of inspecting a sealed condition of an element comprising:

positioning an element adjacent a pair of electrodes, the element being fabricated of a material and comprising a sealed portion at which portions of the

material forming the element are sealed together, the sealed portion being folded down over a surface of the element;

positioning one of the electrodes under the folded down sealed portion so that the one electrode is positioned between the surface of the element and a facing surface of the folded down sealed portion;

contacting the electrodes to the sealed portion of the element at opposite sides of the sealed portion;

supplying electric current to the electrodes in contact with the sealed portion;

detecting an electrical variable in the sealed portion; and

judging a sealed condition of the sealed portion based on the detected electrical variable.